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Welcome to the El-Palacio

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CHAPTER 44:

THE LAST MATCH



HI?

5 YEARS AGO

RAN-MEE-CHAN!



SHUT UP!!

YOU'RE HOME EARLY, LL? MISS MIDDLE SCHOOL? WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

Survive?

WELCOME BACK, CHINA-CHANG!



AS OF TODAY, I AM DONE WITH MY BASIC EDUCATION!!

Certificate of Graduation
We certify that
Shanmen Oaks

has adequately completed the required basic education and satisfied the conditions prescribed by law and regulation. In witness whereof, we award this certificate dated at...

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!!





IF YOU CAN ONLY
BOAST ABOUT
YOURSELF, YOU
WILL NEVER BE
A PRO.



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ON TOP OF
THAT...



I SEE, SO
BUBBLE-GUM PUFF
THAT KIND OF
PERSON...

HA-HA-HA-HA!
FORGET YOUR
LITTLE BROTHER'S
COMPLIMENT
GAVE!

YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE IN THE WHOLE
WORLD WHO CAN BE
CALLED MY LIL' BRO!

Be proud of it!

I... I
CAN'T
BREATHE
HA-HA-HA-
HA-HA!

OH OH
OH OH
OH OH





AND THE AUDIENCE
SEEMS TO LIKE
HER. IS IT ALL
RIGHT, CHAMP?

YOUR HAS
A MIND
GAME FOR
WRESTLING...

SHE'S
STILL A
KIDDER,
YOU
KNOW?

YOU'RE
GOING TO
LET A LITTLE
CHALLENGE
FOR
CHAMPION?

ARE
YOU
SERI-
OUS!?



IF WE STAY
WITH THE SAME
MACH, PLAYING
THE SAME CARDS,
THE CUSTOMERS
WILL NEVER BE
ENTERTAINED...

YOU
ARE
RIGHT...



IT SEEMS
YOU WOULD
OVERDOSS
WHAT I MEANT

A CHAMPION HAS
TO ACCEPT EVERY
CHALLENGE, NO
MATTER THE
OPPONENT.

I'LL DO IT IF
YOU ARE AS
TO, BUT THEN
AGAIN,

BUT THE
MANAGER IS
DEVELOPING
AS, SO...

WHAT DO
YOU THINK?
I KNOW IT
MAY BE TOO
SOON FOR
HER.

WELL...



**DURING
A TITLE
MATCH?**

**YOU MEAN
TO GO
WITH A
SCRIPTED
PERFOR-
MANCE??**



**I'M ASKING YOU
TO HAND OVER
THE CHAMPION-
SHIP BELT TO
AZUL!**

PERIOD.



**THE BELT IS THE
SIGN OF TRUE
STRENGTH AND
SKILL. AND HAS
BEEN PASSED
DOWN AS
SUCH!!**

**WE NEVER
SCRIPT A
MATCH WHEN
THE VIOLET
BELT IS ON
THE LINE!!**



**IT'S
OBVIOUS
IF YOU LOOK
AT THE
NUMBERS.**

**AS LONG
AS YOU KEEP
SHOWING
HOW VALU-
ABLE YOU
ARE...**

**THE
ATTENDANCE
WILL DROP.**



**AND I'M
SAYING
TRADITION
ISN'T
ENOUGH TO
BRING IN
THE FANS.**



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
BEING
STRONG
...?



WE ARE NOT
DISCUSSING
WHAT'S RIGHT
OR WRONG.



AT THIS POINT
YOU ARE...

TOO
STRONG.



A STRONG
CHAMPION, OR
A CHAMPION
WHO CAN
ATTRACT
CUSTOMERS?

WE ARE
DISCUSSING
WHAT WE NEED.





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NO "PRO- WRESTLING MATCH"...





BUT



POSSIBLY
ALL FEEL
THAT SHE WAS
REALLY GOING
TO DIE

BLASTED AS
IF SHE WAS
BEING KILLED



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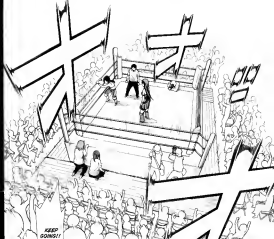


AZUMI
STOOD
BACK UP

NO MATTER
HOW MANY
TIMES SHE
FELL



AZUMI
STOOD
BACK UP



KEEP GOING!!



AAA-
AAA!!

TURN
IT
AAA-
AAA!!

DO
IT!!

GO,
AAA-
AAA!!

AAA-
AAA!!



AAAAA!!

IS ANY
OF THEM
HIS-CHANG'S
OTHER
MATCHES

THE
AUDIENCE
HAD NEVER
BEEN MORE
FIELED UP

AAAAA!!

AAAAA!!

AAAAA!!

AAAAA!!

AS BOMB AS
IT SOUNDED,
ALTHOUGH IT
COULD NEVER BE
CONSIDERED A
PRO-WRESTLING
MATCH.



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DON'T
LET
GO!!

AZU-
MIT!

SHO
HOT
HERE!

BRING
HER
DOWN!!

AZU-
MIT!

AZU-
MIT!

AZU-
MIT!

AZU-
MIT!

AZU-
MIT!

RAN-NI
CHAN!!
GRAB THE
ROPE!!

AZU-
MIT!

AZU-
MIT!

AZU-
MIT!



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**NO... IN ALL
OF JAPAN.**



**THAT WAS
HER FINAL
MATCH...**

**IN EL
PALACIO...**



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